

Background and Talking Points
for Acceptance
Speech at "Golden Carrots"
September 22, 1988

Background

Public Voice is one of the leading consumer advocacy organizations in the country. Repeatedly, Public Voice is in the forefront of efforts to improve food safety and food labeling laws and practices. They are an invaluable resource to the Congress and an aggressive and positive force for better food safety and labeling laws. Their reputation is for being well informed, objective, persistent and successful.

This is the sixth year for the "Golden Carrots" awards. You and Senator Stafford are being honored. The audience will include consumer and environmental activists, numerous Members and Senators, FDA Commissioner Frank Young and Agriculture Secretary Lyng.

The "program" is scheduled to begin at 7:10 P.M. with awards being presented at 7:15 P.M. Your award will be first, with Carol Tucker Foreman making the presentation to you. They have asked that your comments be a "couple of minutes" and informal. There will be a podium.

Talking Points

- * Thank Carol Tucker Foreman for introduction.
- * When I need advice or information on questions involving food and consumers, I know I can always count on Carol Foreman. The consumers of this country are fortunate to have her in Washington.
- * Thank Public Voice
- * The food consumers of this country - and you and I are Members of that group are also very lucky that there is an organization called "Public Voice." I appreciate this award, and the wonderful compliment that you have paid me. But it is we, the food consumers, who should be giving Public Voice an award for representing us so well. (Ask audience to applause.)
- * Public Voice is an invaluable resource to the Congress and an aggressive and positive force for better food safety and nutrition and labeling laws. I congratulate you.
- * Senator Stafford
- * As you know, Senator Stafford is retiring. I can not allow this moment to pass without congratulating him on a distinguished

career. Consumers in Vermont and across the country will miss your strong advocacy on their behalf.

* Next Congress

- * One of the remarkable things about being Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment is that there is never a shortage of issues. This is certainly true with food policy.
- * Our work has just begun on pesticides. The Congress may be on our way to a FIFRA bill; but my Subcommittee will spend a considerable amount of time in the next Congress on legislation assuring the safety of food-use pesticides.
- * Thanks to the activities of Public Voice, the issue of fish inspection and safety is beginning to receive well-deserved attention. I have already conducted hearings on chemical contamination of fish and expect that the Subcommittee will be deeply involved in the next Session.
- * It has also been a long time since Congress considered our food labeling laws. It is time to start over by asking what consumers want and need to know about the food they eat. It is getting harder to find people who are satisfied with the information on the side of a can or frozen food.
- * One thing is certain. If Congress is working on food laws, Public Voice will be engaging in the debate. It is an honor to receive your "Golden Carrot Award."